

REMARKS

Attorney for applicant has responded to the rejections advanced by the Examiner in the Final Rejection dated July 25, 2008. Since the (proposed) Amendment is filed within two months of the date of the Final Rejection, the (proposed) Amendment is entitled to prompt consideration and the issuance of an Advisory Action.

Claims 38, 39, 41-43, 46-48, and 50 have been cancelled, so the number of claims presented for consideration has been materially reduced.

While the Examiner allowed claims 54-59, some minor errors were noted in claims 54, 55 and 59. The minor, or formalistic, errors have been corrected. More particularly, "an" in line 10 of claim 54 should read --a--, while "active support member" in line 16 of claim 54, line 13 of claim 55, and line 16 of claim 59, should read --active support module--. Furthermore, "module" in line 17 of claims 54 and 59 should read --modules--.

Claim 31, as currently amended, combines the subject matter of previously presented claim 31, and intervening claims 42, 43, 47 and 50, indicated as being allowable, by the Examiner.

New (proposed) claim 60 combines the subject matter of previously presented claim 31, and intervening claims 42, 43, 47 and 53, indicated by the Examiner to be allowable.

Previously presented claim 36 should also be allowable, since such claim is dependent upon amended claim 31, which has been indicated as allowable by the Examiner. Claims 51-53 have been revised to be dependent upon amended claim 31, and should also be allowable.

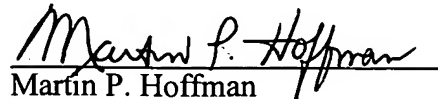
Prompt, and favorable, consideration of the (proposed) Amendment is believed to be in order, since the various rejections advanced in the Final Rejection have been addressed and overcome, or rendered moot. At the very least, the (proposed) Amendment should be entered, as a matter of discretion, to reduce the issues in contest and to place the application in condition for appeal, should such course of action prove to be necessary.

If the Examiner has any questions, or if attorney for applicant has overlooked, or misunderstood some issue, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney, at 703.415.0100, to expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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